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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING TRANSLUCENT IMAGES ON A COMPUTER DISPLAY**

(75) Inventors: **Michael L. Gough**, Ben Lomond, CA (US); **Joseph J. MacDougald**, Saint Petersburg, FL (US); **Gina D. Venolia**, Bellevue, WA (US); **Thomas S. Gilley**, New York, NY (US); **Greg M. Robbins**, Issaquah, WA (US); **Daniel J. Hansen, Jr.**, Georgetown, TX (US); **Abhay Oswal**, Rancho Santa Fe, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

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#### Related U.S. Patent Documents

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**G06T 15/00** (2006.01)

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See application file for complete search history.

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*Primary Examiner*—Phu K Nguyen

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wong, Cabello, Lutsch, Rutherford & Brucculeri LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus is described for producing a translucent image over a base image created on the display screen of a computer system by a selected first application program, and conducting image operations either on the base image created by the selected application program with reference to the translucent image produced, or conducting image operations on the translucent image with reference to the base image of the first application program. The first application program runs on a central processing unit (CPU) of a computer system to produce a base image, and another application program referred to as the overlay program is run to produce the translucent image such that portions of the base image which are overlapped by the overlay image are at least partially visible through the translucent image. There is also a mechanism for blending the first video data and the second video data to produce a blended image on the screen assembly.

**7 Claims, 34 Drawing Sheets**

